

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical device, the surgical device comprising:
a shaft having a lumen and a first slot disposed at a distal end, the shaft movable between a rear position and a forward position;
an anvil slidably disposed in the first slot between open and closed positions to capture tissue within the first slot, the anvil having a surface disposed at a distal end;
at least one electrode for applying RF energy to the tissue captured in the first slot;
and
an actuator operatively connected to the shaft for moving the shaft between the rear position and the forward position.
2. The surgical device of claim 1, wherein the actuator is also operatively connected to the anvil for moving the anvil between the open and closed positions.
3. The surgical device of claim 1, comprising a cutting blade slidably disposed in the first slot between an open position and a closed position, the cutting blade having a cutting edge to sever the tissue.
4. The surgical device of claim 3, wherein the actuator is operatively connected to the cutting blade for moving the cutting blade between the open and closed positions.
5. The surgical device of claim 1, comprising a handle, the shaft extending from the handle, and wherein the actuator is movably disposed in the handle.
6. The surgical device of claim 5, wherein the handle has a slot and the actuator is at least partially disposed in the slot.
7. The surgical device of claim 6, wherein the slot has a first track, and a second track connected to the first track.
8. The surgical device of claim 7, wherein moving the actuator a first predetermined distance in the first track moves the tube between the rear and forward positions and moving

the actuator a second predetermined distance in the second track further moves the anvil between the open and closed positions.

9. The surgical device of claim 2, comprising a handle having a slot that has a first track, and a second track connected to the first track, the shaft extending from the handle, and wherein the actuator is movably disposed in the handle.

10. The surgical device of claim 9, wherein moving the actuator a first predetermined distance moves the tube between the rear and forward positions and moving the actuator a second predetermined distance further moves the cutting blade between the open and closed positions.

11. The surgical device of claim 10, wherein the slot has a third track connected to the first track and the second track, and wherein moving the actuator a predetermined distance in the third track moves the anvil between the open and closed positions.

12. A surgical device, the device comprising:
a shaft having a lumen and an opening disposed at a distal end;
a tip disposed at the distal end of the shaft, the tip having a slot;
a cutting blade slidably disposed in the opening between an open position and a closed position, the cutting blade having a cutting edge to sever the tissue disposed in the opening, the cutting blade further slidable from the closed position at least partially within the slot to a forward position whereat the cutting edge is distal to the tip; and
an actuator operatively connected to the cutting blade for moving the cutting blade between the open position and the closed position and between the closed position and the forward position.

13. The device of claim 12, comprising at least one electrode for applying RF energy, the at least one electrode electrically connected to the cutting blade so as to deliver RF energy to at the at least one electrode.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the at least one electrode comprises a spring that contacts the cutting blade when the cutting blade is in the open position.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the at least one electrode comprises first and second electrodes, each of a different polarity.
16. The device of claim 15, wherein the first electrode comprises at least part of the surface of the anvil and the second electrode comprises at least a portion of the shaft.
17. The surgical device of claim 12, comprising an anvil slidably disposed in the opening between open and closed positions to capture tissue within the opening.
18. The surgical device of claim 17, wherein the anvil comprises a surface and a distal end and has a slot at least at the distal end, and wherein the cutting blade is slidably disposed in the slot.
19. The surgical device of claim 18, comprising at least one electrode for applying RF energy, and wherein the at least one electrode is carried on the surface of the anvil.
20. The surgical device of claim 18, comprising at least one electrode for applying RF energy that includes a spring that contacts the cutting blade when the cutting blade is in the open position.
21. A method for severing tissue, the method comprising:
 - providing a surgical device comprising: a shaft having a lumen and an opening disposed at a distal end; a tip disposed at the distal end of the shaft, the tip having a slot; a cutting blade slidably disposed in the opening between an open position and a closed position, the cutting blade having a cutting edge to sever the tissue disposed in the opening, the cutting blade further slidable from the closed position at least partially within the slot to a forward position whereat the cutting edge is distal to the tip, the cutting blade being electrically connected to a source of RF energy; and an actuator operatively connected to the cutting blade for moving the cutting blade between the open position and the closed position and between the closed position and the forward position;
 - capturing tissue in the opening;
 - sliding the cutting blade from the open position to the forward position such that at least the cutting edge is disposed distal to the tip; and

applying RF energy with the cutting edge of the cutting blade to cauterize tissue located distal to the tip.

22. The method of claim 21, comprising the step of sliding the cutting blade from the open position to the closed position within the opening to cut tissue captured within the opening.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the tissue is a side branch of a blood vessel.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of dissecting tissue from the vessel to be harvested.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the surgical device comprises a handle, and the actuator is movably disposed in the handle and operatively connected to the cutting blade, the method further comprising moving the actuator a first predetermined distance to move the cutting blade between the open and closed positions and moving the actuator a second predetermined distance to further move the cutting blade between the closed position and the forward position.